

Department of Political Science, BBAU

Course Title: Political Philosophy: II

Course code: PS-201

Course Teacher: Sartik Bagh

Semester-II

Credits: 4

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Course description

Discipline of political science has evolved through the ideas of various philosophers. These ideas were propounded by various thinkers in different parts of the world. This course is an attempt to make students familiar with the political ideas of such thinkers. The course is divided into four units. The first unit discusses two popular English thinkers: John Stuart Mill and Edmund Burke. Second unit deals with world's most popular political philosopher Immanuel Kant. Third unit discusses another idealist philosopher who influenced world's most radical ideology, Hegel. Finally the last unit deals with two socialist thinkers, Karl Marx and Lenin.

Course Objective

The objective of the paper is to acquaint the M.A students with the ideas of the following political philosophers. The students will be introduced with those ideas as outlined from the critical perspective so that they can understand, appreciate and reflect upon the importance of the ideas in the contemporary society. The purpose is also to understand the thinkers in terms of being the larger part of the society which have the direct bearing on the development of the ideas with greater depth and societal relevance.

Method of Evaluation

Students' performance will be evaluated on the basis of following items:

1. Tutorial: This will carry 10% weightage
2. Mid-term exam will have 20 % weight
3. End-term examination will have 70 % weightage.

Unit-I J.S. Mill and E. Burk

I. J.S. Mill

- a. Critique of Utilitarianism,
- b. Ideas on liberty, representative democracy, liberalism, subjection of women

II. Edmund Burke

- a. Critique of French Revolution,
- b. Ideas on rational liberty

Essential Readings:

J.S Mill, On Liberty, text available online, see the web link:

<http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/~econ/ugcm/3ll3/mill/liberty.pdf>

For more on political philosophers see another useful link. <http://www.iep.utm.edu/kantmeta/>

Leo Strauss, *History of Political Philosophy*

Jonathan Wolf, *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*

C L Wayper, *Political Thought*

Dudley Knowles, *Political Philosophy*

George Klosko, *History of Politicaltheory, vol-2*

Frank O'Gorman, *Edmund Burke*

Michael Freeman, *Edmund Burke and the critique of radicalism*

Unit-II Immanuel Kant

- I. Scientific view of world
- II. Theory of knowledge,
- III. Theory of cosmopolitanism

Essential Readings:

For Kant see <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/kant-moral/>

Stanford Encyclopaedia of Political Philosophy

Sally Sedgwick, *Metaphysics and Morality in Kant and Hegel*

George Klosko, *History of Political theory, vol-2*

Ebenstein, *Great Political Thinkers*

Karl Popper, *The Open Society and its Enemies, Volume two*. On Hegel and Karl Marx,

Unit III Hegel

- I. View of freedom,
- II. Dialectic –world history
- III. Ideas on state and nationalism

Essential Readings:

For Kant see <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/kant-moral/>

Stanford Encyclopaedia of Political Philosophy

Sally Sedgwick, *Metaphysics and Morality in Kant and Hegel*

George Klosko, *History of Political theory, vol-2*

Ebenstein, *Great Political Thinkers*

Karl Popper, *The Open Society and its Enemies, Volume two*. On Hegel and Karl Marx,

Immanuel Kant, *Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Science* (Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy),

Michael Friedman, Kant: The Philosophy of Immanuel Kant-

A.D.Lindsay, *Political Investigations-Hegel, Marx and Arendt*

Unit-III Karl Marx and Lenin

I. Karl Marx

- a. Dialectical materialism,
- b. Historical materialism-analysis of societies,
- c. Capitalist state and class struggle, Communism

II. Lenin

- a. Party as vanguard of the working class,
- b. Views on capitalist state,
- c. Lenin and world communist movement.

Essential Readings

Robert Fine, *Political Investigations-Hegel, Marx and Arendt*

Karl Popper, *The Open Society and its Enemies*, Volume two on Hegel and Karl Marx,

Subrat Mukherjee, *The History Of Political Thought*

C.L Wayper, *Political Thought*

SUGGESTED READINGS

George Sabine, *A History of Political Theory*

Ebenstein, *Great Political Thinkers*

Karl Popper, *The Open Society and its Enemies*, Volume two on Hegel and Karl Marx

Christopher Morris, *Western Political Thought*

Leo Strauss, *History of Political Philosophy*

Subrat Mukherjee, *The History Of Political Thought*

C.L Wayper, *Political Thought*

Brian R.Nelson, *Western Political Thought*

Jonathan Wolf, *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*

Dudley Knowles, *Political Philosophy*

George Klosko, *History of Political theory, vol-2*

Chris sparks and Stuart Isaacs, *Political theorists in context*

Andrew Hacker, *Political Theory: Philosophy, Ideology and science*

George Lukasc, *History and class consciousness*